



Fact Sheet:



Licensing and Certification of Alcohol and/or Other Drug Recovery or Treatment Programs

LICENSING

Residential facilities that provide non-medical alcohol and/or other drug (AOD) recovery, treatment, or detoxification services to adults must be licensed by the Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs (ADP). Health and safety concerns are the primary focus of the licensing process (e.g., fire clearance, food service, personnel requirements, physical environment, and personal rights). Nonresidential programs are not required to be licensed.

Local officials may require use permits, depending on the type of residential facility involved. Licensed residential facilities serving six or fewer residents are exempt from local government regulations.

As of December 2005, 837 facilities are operated under license from ADP.

CERTIFICATION OF RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS

AOD certification is voluntary. It is considered advantageous to obtain State certification to gain the confidence of both potential residents and third party payers. Certification signifies a program which both meets minimal levels of service quality and is in substantial compliance with State program standards. Participating programs also benefit through the associated technical assistance, training and recommendations for program improvements which are available within the State's alcohol and drug program network.

The majority of the licensed residential facilities are alcohol and/or drug certified. The Residential and Outpatient Programs Compliance Branch (ROPCB) also certifies residential facilities that are licensed by the Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing Division, the Department of Health Services, and facilities operated by the Department of Corrections.

CERTIFICATION OF NONRESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS

As of December 2005, there were 962 nonresidential programs (nonresidential programs do not require licensure) that have been granted AOD certification.

There are an undetermined number of nonresidential drug or alcohol programs operating in the State. ADP identifies only those nonresidential programs which request certification.

COMPLAINTS

ADP investigates all complaints involving AOD licensed and certified facilities. The Department averages 31 complaints per month.